



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Frank W. Kirkland, Executive Director

## EDUCATIONAL ALERT!!!

TO: DDA Licensed Service Providers  
All Concerned

FROM: Frank W. Kirkland, Executive Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration

DATE: January 11, 2013

RE: Influenza Alert!

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As you know, it has been reported that the incidence of influenza is on the increase, nationally and locally. People in DDA services are among those at high risk of complications from the flu. It is important for DDA provider staff and people receiving services to be vaccinated.

“It is not too late to be vaccinated” is the message that is coming from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) as well as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The influenza vaccine, as well as the pneumovax, when indicated, can help to prevent the flu and subsequent complications, such as pneumonia.

For staff and people in services that experience symptoms of the flu, it is important to seek treatment from medical professionals as soon as possible. Good hand washing and other preventive actions such as covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when ill, will also help to keep the flu at bay.

DHMH offers a number of [resources](#) to share with people in service, staff, and families. The CDC also has information available on influenza prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>.

Remember that if your agency experiences an outbreak of the flu, it is important to contact your local health department as well as your DDA regional office. Please contact your DDA Regional Office nurse if you need further assistance.

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH • TTY for Disabled - Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: [www.dhmh.state.md.us](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us)